

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 406

By Bowling

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Tennova
Healthcare - Harton on the occasion of its fiftieth
anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those
venerable medical institutions that provide their communities with the highest-quality care as
they celebrate milestone occasions in their illustrious histories; and

WHEREAS, Tennova Healthcare - Harton has been providing the citizens of Tullahoma
and southern Middle Tennessee with exceptional medical care close to home for half a century,
and on May 7, 2017, the hospital will host a fiftieth anniversary celebration to mark the occasion;
and

WHEREAS, Tennova Healthcare - Harton traces its inception back to 1963, when
Tullahoma Mayor Dr. Jack Farrar appointed a committee to study the city's need for a hospital;
the committee recommended that a hospital be built on the eleven acres of land on Jackson
Street, which had been donated by the family of the late Mayor John W. Harton, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, with funding from a citizen-approved municipal bond, a Hill-Burton Grant,
and an additional sum approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the project was ready to
begin; a groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 23, 1965, with Mrs. John W. Harton, Sr.,
turning the first shovel of earth; and

WHEREAS, Melson Construction Company of Shelbyville erected the building, and a
welcoming ceremony was held for the John W. Harton Memorial Hospital on January 8, 1967,
with the first patient being admitted two days later; the newly built hospital boasted forty-seven
beds, seventy-seven employees, and a twenty-member medical staff; and

WHEREAS, throughout the next two decades, the burgeoning medical facility experienced quite a bit of growth and change. During the 1970s, the hospital opened a cardiac care unit, added a third floor and a multipurpose building, and expanded the existing emergency room and radiology department; the 1980s began with the purchase of Queen City Infirmary, which added thirty-eight beds to the facility, resulting in a total of 137 licensed beds for the hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the city-owned facility was purchased by American Healthcorp, and one year later, the name was changed to John W. Harton Regional Medical Center; that same year saw the instatement of twenty-four-hour emergency room care, a two-story addition and expansion of services, and the introduction of data processing. The hospital changed hands again in 1985, when it was purchased by National Medical Enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the hospital was sold three more times over the years; in 1994, it was purchased by Tenet Healthcare Corporation, and Health Management Associates bought it in 2003. The current owner, Community Health Systems, purchased the hospital in 2013, changing the name to the current moniker, Tennova Healthcare - Harton, three years later; and

WHEREAS, the hospital renovated the nurse and obstetrics facilities, opened a new intensive care unit/critical care unit, and added a cardiac cath lab in 1988, 1989, and 1990, respectively, and in 1992 celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with fifty physicians and 424 employees on staff; and

WHEREAS, during the 1990s, the hospital opened a women's center; added a same-day surgery and outpatient lab; expanded radiology, heart-center, and operating rooms; and received accreditation from The Joint Commission, an accrediting agency that continues to endorse the hospital; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the hospital opened new emergency rooms and expanded its sleep lab; in 2007, groundbreaking took place for a new sixty-thousand-square-foot patient tower, which opened two years later. That same year, the hospital added digital mammography and spinal X-ray services; and

WHEREAS, the second decade of the twenty-first century began with a record-breaking 103 babies born at the hospital during the month of August and saw completion of the project to expand operating rooms; in 2011, the hospital received Chest Pain Center accreditation, and in 2014, a new fourteen-bed critical care unit was completed; and

WHEREAS, Tennova Healthcare - Harton is often recognized for its stellar performance; the hospital has been awarded the Platinum Performance Achievement Award by the American College of Cardiology, the National Award for Excellence in Wound Healing, and additional accreditation for its Sleep Center and Emergency Department; and

WHEREAS, during this, Tennova Healthcare - Harton's fiftieth year of operation, the hospital employs 120 physicians and 662 employees, serving the people of southern Middle Tennessee not only as a healthcare facility, but also as a major employer; and

WHEREAS, the hospital's trustees, physicians, volunteers, and staff are committed to excellence and are proud of their service to the community; they look forward to many years of continued service to Tullahoma and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Tennova Healthcare - Harton has a fifty-year legacy of compassion, healing, and commitment to excellence, and it is fitting that the organization be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and congratulate Tennova Healthcare - Harton on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, extending our sincere gratitude for the high-quality healthcare rendered to citizens of Tullahoma and the southern Middle Tennessee region and wishing the institution much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.